PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF COFFEE

1381. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in export of coffee;

(b) if so, the extent of decrease registered during the last three years, year-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the target fixed by the Government for the export of Coffee for the Eighth Plan period;

(d) whether the production of coffee has also decreased; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to increase the production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The export of coffee during the last three fiscal years was as follows:

Year	Quantity in tonnes	Value in Rs. crores
1988-89	98,266	337.72
1989-90	1,34,076	363.13
1990-91	1,00,110	278.79

The decline in the export of coffee during 1990-91 compared to 1989-90 is due to the low crop during 1989-90, which was available for marketing during 1990-91.

(c) The export target suggested for coffee in the Eighth Plan period is 5,65,500 MT.

(d) and (e) Coffee being a perennial crop it tends to exhibit biennial bearing habit. Therefore, the production fluctuations are bound to occur. Considering the cyclical and biennial bearing tendency of the crop, the following thrust areas have been identified for the Eighth Plan period:

(i) Improving productivity in the small grower sector;

(ii) Covering more area under irrigation to overcome the deficit blossom/backing showers, which is one of the major constraints for increasing the production;

(iii) Phased replanting of old uneconomical plants with high yielding, disease-resistant, early bearing plant material.

SC/ST EMPLOYEES IN NATIONALISED BANKS AND L.I.C.

1382. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts in different categories in nationalised banks and Life Insurance Corporation and the number of posts out of them reserved for SCs/STs and lying vacant as on 30 June, 1991; and

(b) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Information in respect of Life Insurance Corporation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.